



BROMYARD RURAL DISTRICT

Herefordshire

Joint

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and of the

Public Health Inspector

for the year 1972

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL
(As at 31st December 1972)

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J.T. ARNETT (Vice-Chairman of the Council) ..	Stoke Lacy
Major M.A. BELLVILLE (Vice-Chairman of the Health and Development Committee)	Tedstone Delamere
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D. CAVE	Bromyard
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T.L. RICHARDS	Acton Beauchamp/ Evesbatch/Stanford Bishop
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J.H. WALLER (Chairman of the Health & Development Committee)	Winslow
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Dr. G.D.K. Needham resigned as Medical Officer of Health on 31st December, 1972. As from that date, and since no successor has been appointed, Dr. John Sleigh, Medical Officer of Health for South Herefordshire has been available for consultation on public health matters.

This report has been prepared by the undermentioned, and is presented in the usual format as in previous years, but with an addition in statistics on population, and a selection of interesting facts on the district of fifty years ago.

N.E. WORSDALL, M.R.S.H., Surveyor and Public Health Inspector,
W.R.H. GILLING, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H., Deputy Surveyor and Deputy
Public Health Inspector,
Council Offices,
1, Rowberry Street,
BROMYARD. (Tel: Bromyard 2341)

C.A. PREECE, Medical Officer of Health's Clerk,
North Herefordshire Public Health Office,
Westfield Walk,
LEOMINSTER. (Tel: Leominster 2049)

STATISTICS AND VITAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	61,327
Estimated mid-year home population	8,730
Average number of persons per acre	0.14
Number of inhabited houses	3,004
Average number of inhabited houses per acre ..	0.05
Average number of persons per house	2.9
Rateable value	£237,832
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£5,814

LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	60	59	119
Illegitimate	10	5	15
	—	—	—
	70	64	134

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

Comparability factor: 1.16	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968
Bromyard R.D. (Crude)	15.3	13.1	13.6	14.2	12.3
" " (Adjusted)	17.7	14.9	15.5	16.2	14.0
England and Wales	14.8	16.0	16.0	16.3	16.9

Illegitimate Live Births

Per cent of total live births:

	1972	1971
Bromyard R.D.	11.0	2.0
England & Wales	9.0	8.0

Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births:

	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968
Bromyard R.D.	Nil	Nil	17.0	8.0	18.5
England and Wales	12.0	12.0	13.0	13.0	14.3

INFANT DEATH RATESEarly Neonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Bromyard R.D.	..	7.0
England and Wales	..	10.0

Neonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 4 weeks old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Bromyard R.D.	..	7.0
England and Wales	..	12.0

Perinatal MortalityStill Births and Deaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Bromyard R.D.	..	7.0
England and Wales	..	22.0

Infant MortalityDeaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

INFANT DEATH RATES (Continued)

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births:

		1972	1971	1970	1969	1968
Bromyard R.D.	(Total	7.0	Nil	9.0	33.0	9.4
	(Legitimate	8.0	Nil	9.0	36.0	9.8
	(Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

England and Wales (Total) 17.0 18.0 18.0 18.0 18.3

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Total number of Maternal Deaths .. Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Bromyard R.D.	..	Nil
England and Wales	..	figure not yet available

DEATHS

				Males	Females	Total
Total number of deaths from all causes:				53	74	127
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:						
Comparability factor: 0.74				1972	1971	1970
Bromyard R.D. (Crude)		14.5	13.0	15.0	12.7	14.3
" " (Adjusted)		10.7	9.8	11.3	10.0	9.6
England and Wales		12.1	11.6	11.7	11.9	11.9

Cancer

				Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Malignant Disease:				13	22	35
Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:						
				1972	1971	1970
Bromyard R.D.		4.01	2.35	3.39	2.22	2.90
England and Wales		*	2.39	2.36	2.35	2.27

Cardio-Vascular Disease

				Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Cardio-Vascular Disease:				26	31	57
Cardio-Vascular Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:						
				1972	1971	1970
Bromyard R.D.		6.53	7.40	6.07	6.07	7.66
England and Wales		*	5.99	5.94	6.01	6.06

*figures not yet available

Respiratory Disease (excluding Tuberculosis)

	Males	Females	Total
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Total deaths from Respiratory Disease:	9	11	20
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Respiratory Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

1972	1971	1970	1969	1968
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Bromyard R.D. England and Wales	2.29	1.64	2.80	1.52	2.10
	*	1.53	1.76	1.77	1.75

*figure not yet available

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

	Males	Females	Total
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Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity etc.	1	2	3
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	5	6
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	1	3	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, hronchus	5	3	8
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	2	-	2
Other malignant neoplasms	2	5	7
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
Diabetes Mellitus	-	2	2
Other diseases of nervous system	-	1	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	2	-	2
Hypertensive disease	1	-	1
Ischaemic heart disease	9	9	18
Other forms of heart disease	4	2	6
Cerebrovascular disease	4	16	20
Other diseases of circulatory system	6	3	9
Influenza	1	2	3
Pneumonia	2	7	9
Bronchitis and emphysema	6	2	8
Peptic ulcer	1	-	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	-	1	1
Other diseases of digestive system	-	2	2
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	1	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents	2	2	4
All other accidents	-	3	3

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASEBromyard Rural District

Disease	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968
Measles	4	28	110	22	29
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	2	1
Acute Encephalitis:					
Post-Infectious	-	-	-	-	1
+Infective Jaundice	-	2	3	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	2	-	-
Dysentery	35	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	5	-	1	1
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	-	-	1	-	-
Non-Pulmonary	-	1	1	1	1

North Herefordshire

Whooping Cough	-	5	-	4	18
Measles	23	291	146	35	526
Scarlet Fever	7	6	10	4	11
Acute Encephalitis:					
Post-Infectious	-	-	-	-	1
+Infective Jaundice	1	4	10	106	8
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	2	-	-
Dysentery	37	2	2	1	17
Food Poisoning	1	11	16	9	6
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	2	7	3	4	1
Non-Pulmonary	1	2	1	2	3

+Notifiable from 15.6.68.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE DURING THE YEAR 1972

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Measles	-	5	-	13	2	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	23
Scarlet Fever	-	3	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	7
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	1	-	21	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	37
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis:													
Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASEComparative figures per 1,000 population

Disease	North Herefordshire	England & Wales
Measles	0.62	2.97
Scarlet Fever	0.19	0.23
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	0.03
Infective Jaundice	0.03	0.25
Dysentery	1.00	0.18
Food Poisoning	0.03	0.11
Tuberculosis:		
Pulmonary	0.05	0.18
Non-Pulmonary	0.03	0.05

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number on Register at 31st December, 1971.	15	19	7	8
Moved out of district	6	10	-	3
Recovered	5	4	3	2
Number on Register at 31st December, 1972.	4	5	4	3

Year	New Notifications	Total cases on Register	Deaths	Recoveries
1968	1	49	-	-
1969	-	49	-	1
1970	2	51	-	1
1971	1	49	1	1
1972	-	16	-	14

POPULATION CHANGESBromyard Rural District(Including the figures for the old Bromyard Urban District)

Year	Popula- tion	Decrease	Increase	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase	Natural Decrease	Emigra- tion	Immigration
1949	8941								
1950	8947		6	139	120	19		13	
1951	8750	197		160	108	52		249	
1952	8696	54		144	116	28		82	
1953	8713		17	144	115	29		12	
1954	8770		57	147	129	18			39
1955	8800		30	135	119	16			14
1956	8800			139	109	30		30	
1957	8760	40		141	139	2		42	
1958	8740	20		152	97	55		75	
1959	8750		10	117	111	6			4
1960	8770		20	153	102	51		31	
1961	8450	320		145	128	17		337	
1962	8480		30	137	117	20			10
1963	8480			132	127	5		5	
1964	8530		50	121	105	16			34
1965	8560		30	125	90	35		5	
1966	8580		20	117	134		17		37
1967	8580			147	85	62		62	
1968	8610		30	106	123		17		47
1969	8570	40		122	109	13		53	
1970	8560	10		116	128		12		2
1971	8520	40		112	111	1		41	
1972	8730		210	134	127	7			203

This table shows that during the period 1950-72 the population of Bromyard Rural District decreased by 211, as a result of an excess of 436 of births over deaths and a net emigration of 647.

POPULATION CHANGESNorth Herefordshire

Year	Popula-tion	Decrease	Increase	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase	Natural Decrease	Emigra-tion	Immigra-tion
1949	38701								
1950	38799		98	669	520	149		51	
1951	38940		141	695	476	219		78	
1952	39160		220	726	475	251		31	
1953	38943	217		693	484	209		426	
1954	38890	53		644	506	138		191	
1955	38770	120		621	496	125		245	
1956	38660	110		630	486	144		254	
1957	38690		30	646	511	135		105	
1958	38500	190		639	475	164		354	
1959	38190	310		603	458	145		455	
1960	37890	300		619	437	182		482	
1961	36250	1640		554	467	87		1727	
1962	36320		70	579	486	93		23	
1963	36420		100	598	517	81			19
1964	36800		380	612	422	190			190
1965	36930		130	617	439	178		48	
1966	36950		20	573	505	68		48	
1967	36970		20	621	429	192		172	
1968	37200		230	534	497	37			193
1969	37000	200		554	495	59		259	
1970	37010		10	525	473	52		42	
1971	36820	190		542	448	94		284	
1972	37320		500	512	494	18			482

This table shows that during the period 1950-72 the population of North Herefordshire decreased by 1,381, as a result of an excess of 3,010 of births over deaths and a net emigration of 4,391.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S SECTION OF REPORT

This is probably the last chance your officers will have to present an annual report to the present Rural District Council, and because of the imminent local government reorganisation there can be no looking forward on the part of either officer or district council! Comments are therefore confined to performance during 1972 with a mention of the various proposals which are most likely to be started during 1973.

The statistics accumulated in this report may be of some value to the new authority in deciding fresh policies and procedures. As to whether the new Councils will be terribly interested in what has gone before or whether they will prefer merely to look ahead, remains to be seen.

PRIVATE HOUSING(a) General

The subject of private housing taken with the public sector work brings in a wide field of interest such as planning, sewerage, water supply, electricity, village plans, refuse collection, new dwellings, slum clearance, and improvement grants. In fact many people contend that the subject of housing is much the biggest aspect of local authority work. At one time or another in recent years, the R.D.C., has become involved both in the provision of services and in the preparation of village plans, and more recently in the controversy as to whether development should or should not take place in a particular locality.

Views are apt to vary in accordance with local prejudices or politics, but however sincere these views may be or however forcefully they may be pronounced, the broader aspect of homes for all those families living within the United Kingdom has to be taken into account and its import related to our relatively small communities.

Over the years the R.D.C., has sought to provide the basic services to as many of the older dwellings as possible; the Council soon found that the economics of mains sewerage and water were "impossible" unless some degree of additional building took place. The water scheme, which now covers the whole district and some adjoining areas, is an obvious example of the district council accepting the principle of new house building within the area. The argument for new building prevailed to a much greater extent when the Council came round to providing mains sewerage simply because the capital investment to an average sewerage scheme is greater than to an average water scheme.

PRIVATE HOUSING (Continued)(b) Water Supply

The mains water scheme operated by the Herefordshire Water Board and serving districts outside the Bromyard area is based on a main intake from the River Teme just outside the village of Whitbourne. All trunk mains are laid and in operation and all that will be required within the Bromyard area will be small extensions on demand by the interested parties, possibly making capital contributions towards the cost.

Routine sampling at the points of supply is practised by the council and there is no information that any of the mains water is of an aggressive or unsatisfactory nature, chemically or bacteriologically.

The figures for connection as at 31st December 1972 are as follows:

Bromyard	805	Moreton Jeffries	1
Acton Beauchamp	30	Norton	89
Avenbury	41	Ocle Pychard	73
Bredenbury	12	Pencombe	42
Brockhampton	5	Saltmarshe	1
Collington	5	Upper Sapey	46
Little Cowarne	18	Stanford Bishop	28
Much Cowarne	64	Stoke Lacy	72
Cradley	388	Tedstone Delamere	24
Edvin Loach	2	Tedstone Wafre	16
Edwyn Ralph	43	Thornbury	13
Evesbatch	16	Ullingswick	33
Bishops Frome	138	Wacton	10
Grendon Bishop	34	Whitbourne	130
Linton	82	Winslow	90
Felton	2	Wolferlow	10
Hampton Charles	1		
		Total:	<u>2364</u>

(c) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

In recent years our beloved politicians have discovered two words "pollution" and "environment". This may be somewhat late in the day, but nevertheless it is to be welcomed and who knows, politicians might yet catch up with public opinion! More and more people living in the country are demanding sewerage facilities, and an increasing number of individuals and organisations, not to mention the River Boards, are taking up the matter of pollution. As an officer I welcome the pressure placed upon me by the River Board concerning the standard of effluent from the various sewerage disposal works operated within the Bromyard area, even though at times solutions to their problems are not too evident!

PRIVATE HOUSING (Continued)(c) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal (Continued)

The present situation regarding sewerage and sewage disposal within the Bromyard area is as follows:

Villages with satisfactory mains sewers

Bromyard, Cradley, Bishops Frome, Pencombe,
Whitbourne, Linton.

Villages which are likely to see the start of new sewerage schemes within 1973/4.

Upper Sapey, Munderfield, Stoke Lacy, Much Cowarne,
Ocle Pychard, Burley Gate and Ullingswick.

Villages which are likely to have mains sewerage within the foreseeable future.

Fromes Hill, Bredenbury, Norton.

The Council's activities during 1972 have centred upon the completion of the sewerage system and disposal works at Pencombe, and the much larger enterprise at Bromyard. The Pencombe scheme has already influenced the number of planning applications which have been forthcoming in respect of land near the centre of the village. Appreciation of the sewerage scheme by the local inhabitants is evident by the number of properties making early connection to the sewer and subsequent removal of septic tanks.

The substantial Bromyard scheme arose from discussions with the County Planning Authority over the problems of handling private development in and around the parish of Bromyard. These discussions produced a town development plan which, although not yet finally settled in every detail, attracted major support from the residents and encouraged the district council to go ahead with the engineering works demanded. Both town plan and sewerage scheme have been accomplished in just over four years and there is now no reason why substantial private development should not begin within the appropriate areas.

(d) Improvements

Soaring costs of contract work does not seem to have deterred owners from improving their property, and many of the schemes coming forward are major ones so much so that in some cases one is prompted to ask the question "Is this the sort of scheme the improvement grant was intended for?". Whatever the mood of the moment, it has to be conceded that the improvement grant legislation has acted as a carrot: this is especially true when cottages become vacant, and has added considerably to raising the housing stock and prevented many substandard dwellings from being demolished, particularly in rural areas.

PRIVATE HOUSING (Continued)(d) Improvements (Continued)

The 1972 figures for discretionary grants are:

No. of dwellings outstanding at 31.12.71:	1
No. of dwellings for which applications made:	35
No. of dwellings for which grants were offered:	32
No. of dwellings for which applications were withdrawn or refused:	3
No. outstanding at 31.12.72:	1
Amount of grant offered:	£31,382.43

Standard Grants

The figures for 1972 are:

No. of applications made:	18
No. of houses for which grants were offered:	17
No. of houses for which applications were withdrawn or refused:	1
Amount of money paid out during the year:	£5,323.19

As a matter of interest, the financial figures for two years ago were:

Discretionary Grant offered:	£22,202
Standard Grant money paid out:	£5,957

(e) Statistics for new private housing

The final figures for the year to December 1972 are as follows:

No. under construction at the 1st January:	51
No. started between January and December:	25
No. completed between January and December:	33
No. still under construction at 31.12.72:	43

The corresponding figures for 1971 were: 57, 58, 64, 51.

The figures for completion per annum during the past few years were as follows:

1972	33	*1964	17
1971	64	*1963	23
1970	23	*1962	9
1969	51	*1961	9
1968	25	*1960	4
*1967	19	*1959	6
*1966	27	*1958	7
*1965	17		

*old R.D. only.

The above figures demonstrate that the tide might be a little stronger but it cannot yet be described as a flood. Land values have now gone through the ceiling and this together with the arrival of mains sewerage, has quickened the rate of application for outline planning consent and one would expect that the figure for completion will continue to rise for several years.

LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING(a) New Building

The 1972 efforts of the Council were centred on the construction of the 32 dwellings at Acreage, Whitbourne, and the detailed planning for the proposed 99 dwellings at the Quarry Meadow housing site at Bromyard. The extent of the residual housing problem will only become apparent to the new District Council after the completion of the larger Bromyard scheme, but as seen from the office, private development should be allowed to make its impact on several of our parishes, to balance off groups of council development which some people feel may be out of proportion.

(b) Vehicle Parking

The District Council turned its attention in a comprehensive manner to this subject and made some practical progress by way of provision for car parking. For some years the Council will have to invest capital on the conversion of garden and other spaces to car parking, and the enlargement of lay-bys many of which were laid down in the 1950's, when it was thought that the persons to be catered for were restricted to the baker and the milkman.

(c) Improvements

This is a subject which is going to call for enormous capital investment over the next fifteen years or so when looked at from a national point of view; in the Bromyard area not many Council houses were constructed prior to the 1939-45 war, and therefore the immediate demand for improvement and comprehensive repair is restricted to a smaller proportion than is the case in areas where pre-war development was on a larger scale.

Thus we find that except for recent purchases, the dwellings calling for improvement are restricted to the parish of Bromyard. These works are now programmed and seem well placed in the overall plan being put to the new District Council.

Some improvements have already been carried out in the parish of Bromyard, and to these must be added a recent scheme for the provision of gas fired central heating and hot water systems in both the old and the newer estates in Bromyard. This facility is much appreciated by the tenants and has become quite popular.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Bromyard Rural District Council can claim to be quite experienced in the establishment of small rural industrial estates, and is only too well aware that a fully operational industrial estate does not happen over night. At Bromyard and Bishops Frome the necessary roads and other services have been provided. Bishops Frome has not yet reached the stage of the actual construction of buildings; two estates at Bromyard are at the initial level of operation, and with the exception of one plot, the seven businesses have raised the flag, are operational and in five instances have produced plans for extending their buildings. Of these five, two have completed the work of extension.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (Continued)

It might be interesting to have details of the number of persons of both sexes employed in the new factories at Bromyard but this is information which is not readily available to the district council. However it is not too early to see that the factories are having an impact on local employment and from time to time 'spin off' problems arise, such as purchase of housing, improvements, mortgages, etc., for staff employed.

A very natural desire to push on with this sort of development into the Porthouse Farm area has been somewhat frustrated by the inability of the Council and the present owners of the land to agree on a purchase price. It is never pleasant to record that powers of compulsory purchase are being sought but in this instance after due deliberation, the Council came to the conclusion that in the general interests of the town and district, an effort should be made to bring about $8\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land under Council ownership.

It is the Council's opinion, based on their previous experience, that initial development by way of services, general layout, etc., is best provided by the Council as part of a comprehensive plan. There is the further advantage that the Council have it within their province to encourage or discourage the establishment of new interests according to their view of what is likely to prove best for the district as a whole.

The land under negotiation at Porthouse Farm has already been provided with mains storm water drainage and the provision of foul drainage has been made possible by the comprehensive sewerage scheme recently completed in the parish of Bromyard. Without this sewerage scheme the land in question would be useless for any sort of development whether industrial or otherwise, and this too is a factor taken into consideration by the district council when deciding the compulsory purchase procedure.

CARAVAN SITES

The two large holiday sites at Bromyard and Saltmarshe continue as an excellent example for this type of residential amenity with the support of the planning authority.

FOOD INSPECTION(a) Food and Drugs Act

Number of food shops:	73
Complying with Regulation 16:	61
To which Regulation 19 applies:	12
Complying with Regulation 19:	12
Number of Public Houses:	35

(b) Slaughter of Animals Act

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the district.

Number of licensed slaughtermen: 7

FOOD INSPECTION (Continued)(c) Poultry Premises: Nil(d) Food surrendered or condemned

Uncooked meat	603 lb.
Cooked meat and meat products	41 lb.
Canned meats	Nil
Other canned foods	13 lb.
Other foods	103 lb.

FACTORIES ACTSInspections

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sec.1,2,3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	Nil	-	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A.	21	5	-	-
(3) Other Premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	-	-	-

Cases in which defects were found: Nil

Outwork (Sections 133 and 134): Nil

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963(a) Registrations and general inspections

	Number of registered premises at the end of the year.	Number of registered premises receiving general inspection during the year
Offices	18	3
Retail shops	54	12
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	11	8
	<hr/> <u>83</u>	<hr/> <u>23</u>

(b) Analysis of contraventions

Section 4	Cleanliness	2
" 9	Sanitary conveniences	Nil
" 10	Washing facilities	Nil

THE DISTRICT FIFTY YEARS AGO

In 1922, Dr. Herbert Jones was the Medical Officer of Health of the Herefordshire Combined Districts, comprising Bromyard, Dore, Hereford, Ledbury, Leominster, and Woobley Rural Districts, and the Bromyard Urban District. He worked from his home at Hereford on a full-time basis, and half of his salary was contributed from Exchequer grants. He had no allowance for clerical, office or travelling expenses.

At that time, the Bromyard Rural Sanitary Inspector was Mr. Joseph Woodyatt (appointed in 1912) who was employed on a part-time basis. Mr. J.D. Barrs was Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor of the Urban District and had also been appointed in 1912.

Statistics of the Area

	Area (in acres)	Population	Rateable value	Penny Rate product
Bromyard R.D.	61,047	7,644	£68,528	£192
" U.D.	194	1,522	£6,725	£24
	No. of Births	Birth Rate	No. of Deaths	Death Rate
Bromyard R.D.	164	21.4	133	17.3
" U.D.	21	13.8	33	21.6
England & Wales		20.8		12.9
				77.0

Deaths and Notification of Infectious Disease

10 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified in the two districts during the year, and there were 13 deaths from this disease. 11 cases of Diphtheria were notified, with one death. Two cases of Typhoid Fever were notified, 17 of Scarlet Fever, and 23 Pneumonia.

Joint Bromyard Urban & Rural Districts Isolation Hospital

This hospital was erected in 1896 and had accommodation for 4 patients. Eight cases of infectious disease were admitted from the rural district during the year, and two from the urban district. The cost of running the hospital during 1922 was: repayment of loans and interest: £47, current expenses: £105. A horse ambulance (a converted carriage) was kept at the hospital for the removal of infectious cases, and a horse was hired as required. A motor ambulance, presented by the British Red Cross Society, was stationed at Hereford and was available for the removal of non-infectious cases on payment of mileage charges.

Laboratory

Bacterial and chemical examinations were made at the County and City Public Health Laboratory at Hereford. During the year the following examinations were made:

For diphtheria	45
tuberculosis	6
typhoid fever	1
Water supplies	8

The eight water samples were all from the rural district. Six were said to be good, 1 suspicious, and 1 bad.

Nuisances

Among his inspections, Mr. Woodyatt paid 84 visits to workshops and bakehouses, 72 to dairies and cowsheds, 36 to hop-pickers quarters, 14 to slaughterhouses, and 42 under the Housing Regulations.

The U.D. Inspector made 8 visits to workshops and bakeries, 68 to slaughterhouses, and 51 under Housing Regulations.

Dairies and Cowsheds

No regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops' Order 1885 had been made in the districts, and Dr. Jones wrote: "It is very desirable they should be made. Little or no attention is paid to cleanliness of the milkers' hands or the cow's teats, and accumulations of manure are frequently found near to the milking sheds!"

The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act 1922, had just come into force: one of the provisions of the Act being that the sale of milk from a cow suffering from tuberculosis of the udder was prohibited.

There were 21 dairies and cowsheds registered in the rural district; none in the urban.

Slaughterhouses

Three slaughterhouses were situated in the rural district and three in the urban district.

Bakehouses

There were 8 in the rural district and 5 in the urban.

Common Lodging Houses

A Common Lodging House was in Bromyard, with accommodation for 17 lodgers in three bedrooms.

Workshops

	R.D.	U.D.
Bootmakers	7	4
Blacksmiths	22	3
Builders	3	2
Cabinet Makers	-	2
Carpenters	12	-
Coopers	1	-
Coachbuilders	-	1
Dressmakers	3	3
Harness Makers	-	3
Machinists	1	3
Monumental Masons	-	2
Tailors	1	4
Watchmakers	-	2
Wheelwrights	17	1

Hop-Pickers

No by-laws with respect to hop-pickers' quarters were in force in the district. Dr. Jones said "Many of the hop growers are anxious to make pickers comfortable, and it is unfair to them that all the quarters should not be brought up to the same standard"

Water Supply

In no part of the rural district was there a combined piped water supply - shallow wells, mostly without pumps, springs and dip wells were in common use.

In the urban district, a waterworks had been completed in 1901, and since that time a decreasing number of houses in the town had obtained water from wells. The waterworks supply was drawn from springs which were protected from surface water pollution by iron cylinders and were situated on land at Buckenhill. The pumping station was at Three Mills.

Drainage and Sewerage

There was no combined drainage in the rural district. The M.O.H., reported: "Many of the large farm houses and residential dwellings have separate drainage schemes into cesspits or over filter beds, the effluent flowing over land or into streams. The slop drainage from far too many cottages discharge into the nearby roadside ditch, a practice which I have condemned year after year. Even in some newly erected houses this practice has been permitted. There are water closets in the residential houses and in an increasing number of farm houses, but privies with large, offensive pits are to be found attached to cottages in all parts of the district. In some parishes pail closets are almost universally in use and the advantages they possess over the deep pit privies are acknowledged by the cottagers"

In the town of Bromyard, during preceding years, several lengths of old stone drain had been replaced by stoneware pipe. A pipe drain from Sherford Street discharged directly into the River Frome near the northern side of the bridge. The principal main drain of the town (from Pump Street) was made of stone and discharged into an open ditch at the side of the Chapel Meadow. Dr. Jones wrote "The Council should come to some definite decision as to whether the privy closets which are attached to cottages and houses in the centre of the town should be replaced by water closets"

Refuse Collection

There was a weekly collection in the urban district and scavenging of the streets was carried out daily. During the summer months the streets were watered with a solution of calcium chloride.

Housing

One new house was erected in the rural district and eight in the urban. The R.D. Inspector found 31 houses 'not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation' and the U.D. Inspector found 8. The latter also reported that 18 houses were 'found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation'

23 houses in the rural district were rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Council, and likewise 4 in the urban district.

Schools

Of the 16 schools in the R.D., 5 had privy closet accommodation, 10 had pail closets - 6 of which used earth and 4 of which did not, and one had a long hopper hand flushed closet. In the matter of water supply, 8 had pumps in the schools, 5 were supplied with water from pumps in the teachers' houses, one (at Brockhampton) had a piped supply, and two had no supply on the premises.

The two elementary schools in the town were provided with water closets which were connected to the public sewers.

Tedstone Wafre School was closed from September 23rd to October 16th, 'owing to insanitary conditions'.

COMMENT

The combined total population in 1922 was 9,166 compared with a 1972 figure of 8,730.

Soon after the formation of the National Health Service twentyfive years ago, the old R.D.C., repurchased the Isolation Hospital, then sold it. More recently it has been converted, with the aid of an improvement grant, into a most desirable dwelling.

The figures for infectious diseases - diphtheria, tuberculosis and scarlet fever underline a change over the years.

50 years ago there were 13 bakehouses, whereas today there are really only two, and these under the same ownership.

The water supply throughout the urban and rural district was radically changed with the construction of the Teme intake between 1964 and 1967. The old pumping station at Three Mills is now used as a house and store by the Herefordshire Water Board. The old reservoirs and

collecting arrangements at the springs at Buckenhill have been demolished. The Council purchased the intermediate level reservoir at Firs Lane as a site for a car park which is to be constructed later this year as part of the Quarry Meadow housing site. The Three Mills complex plus reservoirs was in use until the early part of 1965, supplemented by water pumped from one of the Buckenhill streams.

Of the 18 schools 50 years ago, only 7 remain, but to these must be added the new comprehensive school.

